

COLORED DRAFTEES SAY, UNFAIR TREATMENT

A Home Paper With A Home
Editor, That Tells The State
News Weekly



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ARE WE HEADED RIGHT?

Colored Selectees From Birmingham, Ala. Enroute To Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg, Mississippi Register Complaints

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On last week, quite a few colored selectees for Army service passed through Meridian in buses en route to Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg, Mississippi where they are to be inducted into government service to fight and defend Democracy. Hundreds of these young colored men were from Alabama. After arriving in Meridian and stopping to have dinner, several of the selectees registered complaints to Reverend R. L. Young, pastor of Newell Chapel C. M. E. Church and editor of the Weekly Echo.

The selectees stated that they were being coerced to get their meals at some specified place. According to their reports, they were told by the bus drivers, who were white, that they were to eat at one particular place in Meridian. They reported that the meals furnished them were unwholesome.

Some twelve or fifteen of these young colored men gave their names in support of their complaints. After taking the matter up with some of the colored citizens, the pastor of Newell Chapel Church wrote a letter to the Selective Service System, Ala. State Headquarters; to the Alabama Chamber of Commerce; to the editor of the Birmingham Age Herald and to the editor of the Birmingham Review, reporting the complaints as reported by these young men. From some of these letters written nice replies have been made to Rev. Young.

In his letter Rev. Young pointed out the fact that this is no time for discrimination and maltreatment of men because of race, creed or color.

The following letter from the Alabama State Headquarters is self explanatory:

Selective Service System
Alabama State Headquarters
Montgomery

February 28, 1942.

Rev. R. L. Young,

1821 - 16th Ave.,

Meridian, Miss.

Dear Dr. Young:

I have your letter of February 26 regarding the treatment of colored selectees in Meridian, Miss., and by bus drivers.

I am taking this matter up officially this morning and you can rest assured that a thorough investigation will be made and that these young colored draftees will get the treatment they deserve. For your information, each

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Formal Opening of Up-to-date Cleaners

FORMAL OPENING OF
UP-TO-DATE CLEANERS

Mr. D. B. Young announces the formal opening of the Up-To-Date Cleaners in Meridian at 2504 Fifth Street.

He wishes to thank his many friends, both white and colored for the splendid patronage given him. He has the most up-to-date cleaners operated by colored people in the state of Mississippi and his shop ranks among some of the best in Meridian.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday were special days with special prices in Meridian.

Rev. R. B. Ooten



Dear Secretary.

My name is not in the paper; however, here comes two applications and I have three more depending. send me some application blanks by return mail.

Rev. R B Ooten, President
Lodge No 479 Lawrence,
Miss:

Congratulation

To my son, Reverend R. L. Young, for his thoughts in sponsoring an H. B. A. drive for three months. The idea was one of his and I stood behind him 100%. I have watched him push a drive for three hundred members to success.

He came to me a few days ago and said, "Papa, I lack four of having three hundred." I laughed and said, "Go on boy, you will get them." He wound up with three hundred and eleven. I wish to thank those loyal presidents and members who stood so heroically by him.

Roy believes that he can do anything. Well, if he doesn't do it, when I get through with him he will do it. Thank you, son.

Reverend E. F. Young,
General President

White Soldier Shows Courtesy

WHITE SOLDIER SHOWS
COURTESY

I was told a few days ago there were a white and colored soldier, as well as white and colored citizens on a bus in Meridian. A white soldier was seated toward the front. A colored soldier stood in the rear because he had no place to sit. The white soldier beckoned to the colored soldier

and had him to come and sit in the seat by his side . . . as one of the seats was empty. A white person is said to have said to the white soldier, "Why do you have that Negro to come up here and sit?" The white soldier is reported to have remarked, "Friend he is fighting for you. Would you not permit him to sit here?" We are told that all was quiet. We are fighting this war to win and we have got to lose sight of little things if we expect to win.

A Modern Colored Shoe Shop.

MR. FRANK HODGES



The above is the likeness of one of our leading shoe cobblers, not only of Meridian, but of the state. Mr. Hodges has a splendid business located on fifth street. He is one of our leading and dependable business men of Meridian.

Mr. Hodges is solicitous of your patronage with all work guaranteed. He has recently installed \$3,000.00 worth of modern equipment in his shop.

Mr. Hodges makes the following announcement:

The installation of the very latest Landis Shoe Repair Equipment. One stitcher for men's heavy soles. One stitcher for men and women's medium and light soles, and one McCay Stitcher for women and children's work.

\$3,000.00 equipment for all shoe repair work. For colored.

Which Way Are The People Headed Today During These Perilous Times?

WHICH WAY ARE WE HEADED
TODAY?

Which Way Are The People Headed
Today During These Perilous
Times?

When we think of the condition of the world today, we are forced to ask, which way are we headed? We Americans have not as yet realized that we are in a world war. We seem not to know that it is going to take a solid front on our part to win this war.

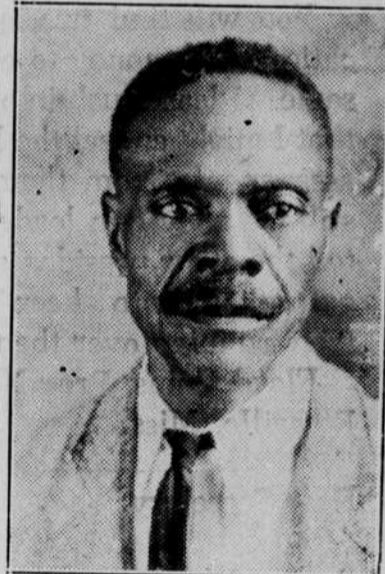
There are plans on foot now to give India freedom. The nation that suppressed India sees and feels the need of liberating poor India in order that India might be willing to fight with her millions to save the world from the domination of Hitler and the Axis powers. We hope the nation that has suppressed India so long has not waited too late.

As editor of the Weekly Echo, we feel that there are black Americans, Negro Americans may we say, who need to be liberated. When one thinks of the many privileges and rights that we are denied as a race, we all must confess that we are not free. If I were a free man I would be permitted to help run the community, as well as help support it. I would not be denied the right of the ballot because my face is black. Those in authority would not permit me to pay taxes of any kind as any other individual pays and then deny me the right to the ballot box.

In all of the discrimination that we have confronted, we have still been loyal. We are yet loyal and we will remain loyal. We can be counted on and we want to be allowed some of the things denied us, which rightfully

belong to us. We are not mad; we are not pretenders; we are loyal citizens respectfully asking for our rights.

Give us the things that rightfully belong to us and God will help us to win this war much easier. As a minister of the gospel, I feel and believe from the depths of my heart that one of the reasons why the war is being prolonged God is trying to give all nations and races an opportunity to do unto others as they would that they should do unto them."



Dear Secretary:

This is Weaver from the Beaver Dam. Please accept these three application rush me some application blanks at once. We will show all of you something

W H J Weaver, President
Lodge No 344,
Leaksville, Miss

Whiskey and the Man In Uniform

On last Sunday, while at the bus station I saw colored and white soldiers coming and going, and to my surprise, I saw one soldier drunk. His comrades had to hold him . . . he could hardly stand. I remarked to a white gentleman, "Can we win a war with such as that dressed in uniform?" He remarked to me, "If all were like that one, we could not win it, however," he stated, "where we have one that will get drunk such as he, we have hundreds who will not."

I am thoroughly convinced that when whiskey and beer were legalized in the United States . . . when we voted to be wet instead of dry, it was one of the most damnable acts that

we could have committed. Drunk folk cannot win a war . . . drunk folk cannot fight a war. To win this war, we must be sober and sober minded.

Permit me to broadcast this appeal, especially to the black soldiers dressed in uniform, to the black mothers and fathers . . . teach your sons, teach the soldiers, teach the young men and women to abstain from alcoholic drinks.

What has become of the church of our forefathers? Do we have God on our program? Our forefathers prayed to God to liberate them from the bondage of slavery. There was a time when we had weekly prayer

meetings and weekly and monthly class meetings. There was a time when one committed a wrong, he was tried in the church; if he were found guilty, he was suspended but now in the church of God there is no one to try the other.

We have gone wild over picture shows, dance halls, beer and whiskey bottles, good times, etc. Let's give God a chance on this program. Where are the preachers of the gospel? Have we lost our saving power? Have we as ministers and church members gotten with the world? Can we distinguish a Christian from a worldly man

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